

News Release

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Canyon Lake to open soon for boating

FORT WORTH, TX – The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, announced today that Canyon Lake could be open to boating before the Labor Day weekend, provided no significant rainfall occurs.

On August 28, when the lake level is expected to reach elevation 930 feet mean sea level (msl), officials will review flood conditions at Canyon Lake and make the determination whether to open the lake to boating. All other recreation facilities will remain closed to the public including roads, parks, campgrounds and day-use areas.

Once boating is allowed to resume, boat operators should be aware of possible floating debris, submerged picnic shelters, utility poles and treetops, and other unknown hazards resulting from extreme flooding that occurred over the July 4 weekend.

Though it is highly unusual for the Corps of Engineers to close a lake, extreme situations, such as the flooding that occurred in the Canyon Lake area, merit some closures in the interest of public safety. The following interagency order issued on July 6 remains in effect:

"In response to extensive flooding in Central Texas, Comal County and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers, have enacted an emergency order prohibiting all watercraft, motorized and non-motorized, and all people from the waters of Canyon Lake until the lake reaches an elevation of approximately 918-920 feet."

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The Corps began flood releases from Canyon Dam on Aug. 10 to regain flood control storage capacity at Canyon Lake. Since the releases began, the lake has dropped from elevation 943.68 feet msl to elevation 936.08 feet msl as of 8 a.m. today. Provided no significant rainfall occurs, it will take approximately a month to draw the reservoir down to the conservation pool of 909 feet.

When lake levels are drawn down sufficiently, the Corps will inspect its parks and recreation facilities for damage and safety hazards and re-open the parks as soon as possible depending on the damages sustained and availability of funding for repairs.